

GRISWOLD Connections

WINTER 2019

Dividend Checks Mailed December 2

Dividends to Griswold Communications shareholders are paid 10 years in arrears; therefore, the checks were for services from 2009. If you do not get your dividend check or you have questions, call our business office at 712-778-2121.



Happy Holidays

Griswold Communications employees and board wish you and your family a happy holiday season. Our business office will be closed Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25 for the Christmas holiday, and Wednesday, January 1 for New Year's Day.

Contact

Griswold Communications
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Griswold, IA 51535
Phone: 712-778-2121

Office Hours
Monday – Friday
7:30 am to 12:30 pm and
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Email us at gctc@netins.net

Visit us online at
griswoldcommunications.com

griswold
communications



CHRISTMAS *entertainment* LOADING...
ENJOY FASTER, MORE FESTIVE INTERNET

It's time to tech the halls and make your family merrier when they use all their devices. A super-fast internet connection will eliminate annoying buffering and enhance your experiences while streaming, video chatting, gaming, and more.

Give your family the gift of an internet upgrade! Increase your blueSURGE internet speed in December and Griswold Communications will waive the \$27 fee to change your speed.*

CALL 712-778-2121
TO SIGN UP FOR SPEEDS UP TO 1 GIG

*Certain restrictions apply. Online experience is impacted by devices used and their performance capability as well as by wireless router capability and environmental conditions.



CHECK OUT WHAT'S NEW: fuboTV

Griswold Communications recognizes that today's TV landscape is changing. Consumers are more price sensitive with traditional cable TV service, and streaming alternatives have altered viewing habits. With these things in mind, we've partnered with fuboTV to bring you this exciting option.

FuboTV is a streaming service that delivers programs via your internet connection, and it's separate from blueSURGE television. With fuboTV, you can enjoy an impressive lineup of many sports and entertainment channels—many of the same channels blueSURGE television offers plus some that we don't. 763-4573

If you're looking for an alternative to blueSURGE television or want to subscribe to a streaming service in addition to blueSURGE television, we encourage you to check out fuboTV at fubotv.com/griswold. You can also call us at 712-778-2121 for more details.

Beef Up Your Virtual Recipe Box

While old family recipes are great, new recipes are fun as well. Bring your devices into the kitchen and check out these free apps for inspiration on what to make next:

Tasty. Use the comprehensive search tool to find new recipes, then follow along with helpful videos. Easily post to social media so your friends can share in the foodie fun.

BigOven. Search by keyword, course, ingredient, or collection, or use the leftover feature to enter ingredients from your pantry to see what you can make. Additional features help with menu planning and shopping.

Yummly. Perfect for those with special diets or food allergies, this app has you input some initial information to find the best recipe for you, then it keeps learning to refine future results.

Allrecipes Dinner Spinner. Get dinner on the table with less fuss and more fun. This app allows you to specify ingredients and prep time to find just the right recipe.

Oh She Glows. With a focus on healthy cooking, this app helps you avoid meat-based and processed food. These mostly plant-based recipes include many gluten-free options.

SideChef. Great for beginners, this app provides step-by-step recipe instructions including photos and videos. Search filters allow you to find exactly the right recipe.

When you're browsing around online looking for a recipe, try these strategies to spot a good one:

- **Read the blog text and comments.** You'll be able to tell the level of testing the author used and whether others have had success with the recipe.
- **Make sure the ingredients match the instructions.** Read a recipe all the way through before trying it. Ideally recipes should have ingredients listed in the order in which they're used.
- **Look for specificity.** An ingredient of "1 carrot" is good, "1 medium-sized carrot" is better, and "1 cup chopped carrots" is best. Similarly, descriptive text—like, "the onions should be translucent"—is useful.

Griswold Communications offers a menu of internet plans to satisfy your bandwidth-hungry household. Visit griswoldcommunications.com for details.



Your Computer Wants You to Keep These New Year's Resolutions

As you make New Year's resolutions related to your finances, health, and personal growth, don't forget to include your computer on that list. Sticking to the resolutions below can reduce the number of computer problems you experience.

Do backups often.

Hopefully you're already doing this. If not, resolve to start now. You can keep this second set of your files on an external hard drive or an online storage service.

Restart your computer weekly.

RAM (Random Access Memory) is your computer's main type of memory, and it's constantly in flux. When you restart your computer, you flush out the random, unimportant, and temporary data bogging it down. This can allow your computer to run a lot faster.

Stop eating and drinking near your computer.

Granted, this can be a difficult habit to break. But it's worth the effort. You don't want to damage your computer by spilling a cup of coffee or dropping crumbs between the keys.

Clean the screen and keyboard regularly.

Dust, hair, and other debris can adversely affect your computer's performance. Dust large areas with a microfiber cloth and use a small clean paintbrush to dust keys and small crevices. Canned air also works well to dislodge dust and other small debris that can be difficult to remove. 767-2566

Keep your passwords strong and varied.

Make sure yours are as long as possible; contain a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols; and have no personal information or dictionary words. It's also important to use a unique password for each account. If this seems like too much work, get a password manager.

Close programs you're not currently using.

The problem with running too many programs simultaneously is that your computer may slow down or even freeze.

Need help with computer maintenance?

Griswold Communications offers Tech Home services to protect and maintain your devices. Visit griswoldcommunications.com for details.



Scholarship Notice for 2020 Graduates and Their Parents

It's never too soon to be thinking about upcoming scholarship opportunities. Griswold Communications offers a local scholarship to students in our school district. There will be additional scholarship opportunities available through other associations of which Griswold Communications is a member.

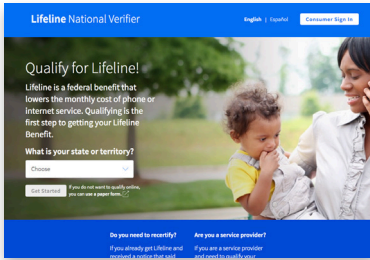
All details have not been finalized yet, but deadlines for submission of scholarship applications last year were between March 1 and March 15. We anticipate those deadlines to be similar for 2020. More details will be made available as we get them.

December 26 is Candy Cane Day

While typically peppermint-flavored and white with red stripes, the candy cane can be found in many flavors and colors. There's also variety in the folklore surrounding its origin.

A popular legend claims a choirmaster in Germany bent straight sugar sticks into the shape of shepherd's staffs and handed them out to children at living nativity services in 1670. Another story says that in 1847, a German-Swedish immigrant in Ohio asked a candy maker to add a crook to the canes to justify giving candy to children during worship. 769-2646





Lifeline Offers Consumer Portal to Check Eligibility

As of October 23, 2019, consumers in Iowa can check their eligibility for Lifeline service directly by using the National Verifier consumer portal available at CheckLifeline.org. This consumer portal is available in both English and Spanish language versions.

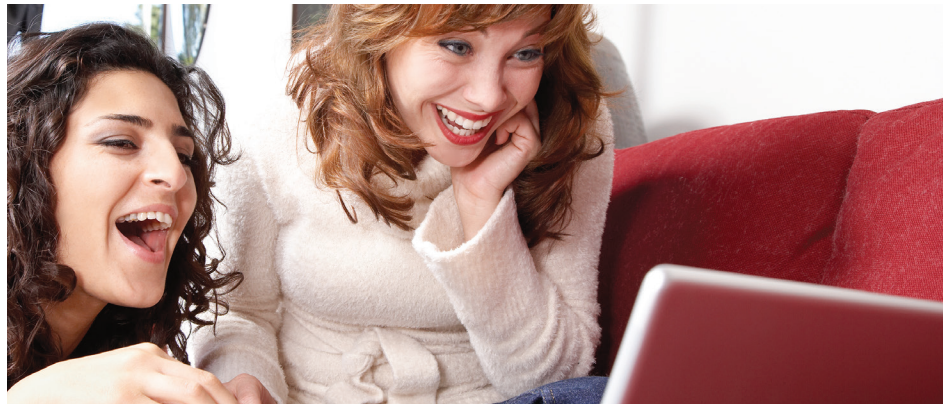
Consumers, as well as service providers, will also be able to mail Lifeline program forms and documentation to USAC for manual review. Consumers and service providers can obtain the Lifeline program application form by going to CheckLifeline.org and clicking on "use paper form." Paper forms can be sent by mail to USAC Lifeline Support Center, P.O. Box 7081 London, KY 40742.

Hidden Number Contest

We have hidden randomly selected phone numbers throughout this newsletter. If you find your phone number in *italics* anywhere in this newsletter, please call our office at 712-778-2121 by December 31, 2109 to receive a \$5.00 bill credit.

Last newsletter's Hidden Number Contest winner was Randall Frank. Congratulations to you.

Look now to see if your phone number is hiding in any articles. Good luck and happy reading!



Crazy About Corny Christmas Movies?

Both Hallmark and Lifetime are going all out with their Christmas movies in 2019, which is great news for fans of unbelievably cute small towns, holiday-themed businesses, and love that conquers all. Sure, almost all of the plots follow a predictable format, but these movies aren't designed to surprise you. They're meant to provide an escape from the real world that's as sweet as a plateful of cookies and as comfortable as an evening with an old friend.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of Hallmark's hugely popular "Countdown to Christmas" event. 778-2477 The network will air 40 new Christmas movies—starring favorites like Candace Cameron Bure, Erin Krakow, and Dolly Parton—on the regular Hallmark channel and on Hallmark Movies and Mysteries.

To give you a taste of what's to come, here are some of the titles of the new Hallmark movies: *A Christmas Love Story*, *Christmas in Rome*, *Christmas at Dollywood*, *Christmas Town*, *Christmas Wishes & Mistletoe Kisses*, *Christmas Camp*, *A Merry Christmas Match*, *Nostalgic Christmas*, and *Check Inn to Christmas*. Look carefully and you'll see a pattern there!

Over at Lifetime, you can enjoy more Yuletide cheer during the "It's a Wonderful Lifetime" holiday event. This lineup features 28 Christmas movies including ones starring Melissa Joan Hart as an event coordinator and Tia Mowry-Hardrict as an antique store owner. Fans of *One Tree Hill* will be pleased to hear that Lifetime will air the movie *The Christmas Contract* starring the show's cast mates Hilarie Burton, Robert Buckley, Danneel Ackles, and Antwon Tanne.

So during the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, be sure to carve out some time to relax with these delightfully festive Christmas movies. You can watch the Hallmark and Lifetime channels via your blueSURGE television package or by using your streaming service of choice combined with our high-speed internet. To learn more, call 712-778-2121.